

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 25th March, 2010

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PETITION

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to make a petition on behalf of Kiborowa squatters who are a group of squatters from Trans Nzoia District under an organization called Kiborowa Squatters Alliance. The squatters reside in the rural and peri-urban slums within Trans Nzoia and like our forefathers, remain landless and living under deplorable conditions. Some of those squatters are temporary labourers on the former colonial settler farms now popularly called Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) farms. Our girls and women are raped and forced into prostitution and early marriages, occasioning high instances of HIV/AIDS and gender biased violence. There are high poverty levels leading to early school dropouts and childhood labour. Despite those squatters making several presentations to the Government with assurances from district commissioners, permanent secretaries and Ministers for Land and Settlement since Independence, our people have yet to see any positive action. We are, therefore, praying through this petition for your humble intervention as a House, so that the Government of the Republic of Kenya may immediately settle all the squatters on the following ADC farms: Sabwani, Sekhendu and Olingatongo ADC farms. We are also praying that the Government restrains those Members of Parliament who are inciting members from non-squatter communities to invade those farms.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Dr. Khalwale! You caught my eye to present a petition, but I am in doubt as to whether or not you have, in fact, complied with Standing Order No.204. At least, I have no indication from the Clerk of the National Assembly, which I normally have as a matter of practice, that you have complied with Standing Order No.204. Can you satisfy me that you have done so?

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this petition was presented to the Office of the Clerk. He went through it and marked it to the Speaker of the National Assembly. The Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly marked it to Mr. Ndombi who is in the legal arm of Parliament. Mr. Ndombi invited me to his office. We went through this petition and I am glad to confirm that we have complied to the letter, to the requirements of that Standing Order.

Mr. Speaker: Can you, please, let me have a look at the petition to be satisfied that those steps have been taken?

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after I conclude or before?